

Serial No.: 10/663,946
Amendment dated 24 May 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed 24 February 2005

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An adjustable dispenser tip comprising:

a nozzle forming a passage along a length of the nozzle, the nozzle having a mating end portion and a dispensing end portion;

a plurality of independently movable fingers defining an orifice at the dispensing end portion in communication with the passage;

a coupler positioned with respect to the nozzle and movable with respect to the nozzle urging the fingers to adjust an area of the orifice; and

an elastomeric web positioned with respect to the nozzle, the elastomeric web positioned between each of the independently movable fingers and connecting the fingers.

2. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 1 wherein the elastomeric web is positioned on an outer surface of the nozzle.

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3. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 1 wherein the elastomeric web is positioned inside the nozzle.

4. (Currently Amended) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18 wherein the elastomeric web is positioned between each of the independently movable fingers.

5. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 1 wherein the coupler comprises an internally threaded base end portion threadedly engageable with a plurality of threads on an outer surface of the nozzle mating end portion.

6. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 1 wherein the coupler is threadedly connected to the nozzle and rotatable about the nozzle to traverse a length of the nozzle.

7. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 1 wherein the nozzle dispensing end portion is tapered.

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8. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 7 wherein the coupler comprises a tapered tip end portion that contacts the fingers and urges each finger to adjust the area of the orifice.

9. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 1 wherein the coupler is slidably movable along the nozzle to contact and urge the fingers to adjust the area of the orifice.

10. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 1 further comprising a collar arrangement wherein at least a portion of a tip end portion of the coupler is tapered corresponding to at least a portion of a tapered dispensing end portion of the nozzle, the coupler rotatable with respect to the nozzle to move the coupler with respect to a length of the nozzle, contacting and urging each finger in a direction with respect to a center point of the orifice.

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11. (Currently Amended) An adjustable dispenser tip comprising:

a nozzle forming a passage between a threaded mating end portion and a dispensing end portion, the dispensing end portion having a plurality of flexible fingers defining an orifice at an end of the passage;

a coupler threadedly connected at a base end portion to the nozzle mating end portion, the coupler rotatable about said nozzle to traverse a length of the nozzle and urge the flexible fingers to adjust an area of the orifice; and

an elastomeric web positioned with respect to the nozzle and connecting adjacent flexible fingers, the elastomeric web including a membrane positioned between the nozzle and the coupler, and covering the plurality of flexible fingers.

12. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 11 wherein at least a portion of the nozzle dispensing end portion is tapered.

13. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 12 wherein at least a portion of a tip end portion of the coupler is tapered.

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14. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 13 wherein the tip end portion contacts the flexible fingers to independently urge the flexible fingers.

15. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 11 wherein the nozzle comprises at least one of a metal, an alloy, a plastic, a graphite material, a metal composite material, a non-metal composite material and combinations thereof.

16. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 11 wherein the elastomeric web comprises one of an elastic material, an elastomeric material, a silicone material, a latex material and a rubber material.

17. (Currently Amended) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim [[11]] 21 wherein the elastomeric web comprises a membrane positioned between the nozzle and the coupler, and covering the plurality of fingers.

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18. (Currently Amended) An adjustable dispenser tip comprising:

a nozzle forming a passage and having a plurality of fingers forming an orifice at a tapered dispensing end portion of the nozzle, the fingers independently movable to adjust an area of the orifice;

a coupler positioned about at least a portion of the nozzle and having a tapered tip end portion contacting the tapered dispensing end portion of the nozzle, the coupler movable with respect to the nozzle to urge the fingers to adjust the area of the orifice; and

an elastomeric web positioned on an outer surface of the nozzle and connecting adjacent fingers.

19. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 18 further comprising a collar arrangement at the tapered dispensing end portion for adjustment of the orifice area wherein the tapered tip end portion is positioned about and cooperative with the tapered dispensing end portion and rotatable with respect to the nozzle to traverse a length of the nozzle, the tapered tip end portion contacting each finger to independently urge each finger and adjust the orifice area.

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20. (Original) The adjustable dispenser tip of Claim 18 wherein the adjustable dispenser tip is connected to a caulk tube.

21. (Currently Amended) An adjustable dispenser tip comprising:

a nozzle forming a passage and having a plurality of fingers forming an orifice at a dispensing end portion of the nozzle, the fingers independently movable to adjust an area of the orifice; and

an elastomeric web positioned with respect to the nozzle, the elastomeric web positioned between each of the independently movable fingers and connecting adjacent fingers, the elastomeric web urging the fingers to adjust the area of the orifice.